13.    An article comprising a computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable instructions for receiving data from a plurality of ports for processing by a plurality of processes including at least one thread, the instructions causing a computer to:

assign one of the plurality of ports to one of the plurality of processes;

determine that additional data is available from the one of the plurality of ports; and

await notification by the process that processing has been completed for the additional data prior to re-assigning the one of the plurality of ports to one of the plurality of processes.